Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1-40 (canceled)

41. (new) A method for producing a catalytic converter, comprising:

wrapping a mineral fiber positioning mat around a monolith packet to form a monolith packing;

radially prestressing the mineral fiber mat;

pressing in a pressing-in direction the at least one monolith packing into a tube section forming a positioning area,, the tube section being utilized to increase restoring forces exerted by the mineral fiber mat onto the monolith, the positioning area comprising at least two longitudinal sections that extend parallel to a longitudinal axis of the tube section, wherein at least two of the longitudinal sections have different internal cross-sectional area such that the longitudinal sections decrease in cross-sectional area in the pressing-in direction and the monolith packing is pressed in starting from a tube end having a larger cross-sectional area.

42. (new) The method according to claim 41, wherein the monolithic packet comprises at least two monoliths, and wherein the method includes pressing in each of the at least two monoliths into at least two successive longitudinal sections with decreasing internal cross-sectional areas in the pressing-in direction.

43. (new) The method according to claim 41, wherein the tube section comprises two tube ends, and at least two successive longitudinal sections with decreasing internal cross-sectional areas extend in a respective pressing in direction from each end, the method comprising pressing in a pressing-in direction a monolithic packing at each tube end.

44. (new) The method according to claim 43, wherein the tube section comprises a first end, a second end, and a first longitudinal section extending from each of the first end and the second end, wherein the first longitudinal sections extend from the first end and the second end enclose a second longitudinal section having smaller internal cross-sectional area, the second longitudinal section extending across end regions of two monoliths that face each other.

45. (new) The method according to claim 41, wherein the tube section comprises three successively following longitudinal sections that decrease in cross-sectional area in the pressing-in direction.

46. (new) The method according to claim 45, wherein the monolithic packet comprises two monoliths, and the method includes pressing in and positioning the two monoliths into the tube section such that the center longitudinal section extends across end regions of the two monoliths, which face each other.

47. (new) The method according to claim 41, wherein the at least two longitudinal sections extend only across a portion of a periphery of the tube section.

48. (new) The method according to claim 41, wherein one of the longitudinal sections includes a peripheral area having a further reduced cross-sectional area.

49. (new) The method according to claim 41, wherein the positioning mat comprises embedded exfoliated mica particles.

50. (new) A catalytic converter, comprising:

a housing comprising a tube section forming a positioning area, an inflow funnel and an outflow funnel, the positioning area comprising at least two longitudinal sections that extend parallel to a longitudinal axis of the tube section, wherein a first of the longitudinal sections extends away from a first end of the tube section and is followed by a second of the longitudinal sections having a reduced cross-sectional area;

at least one monolith arranged in the positioning region;

a mineral-fiber mat with radial pre-stressing; and

a gap space arranged between a peripheral surface of the monolith and an internal surface of the housing and accommodating the mineral-fiber mat with radial pre-stressing.

51. (new) The catalytic converter according to claim 50, wherein the positioning area accommodates a monolithic packet comprising at least two monoliths, wherein each monolith is arranged in two of the longitudinal sections.

52. (new) The catalytic converter according to claim 50, wherein the tube section comprises a first end and a second end and a positioning area extends from each of the first end

and the second end.

53. (new) The catalytic converter according to claim 50, wherein the tube section comprises a first end and a second end, wherein a first longitudinal section extends from each of the first end and the second end, wherein the longitudinal sections enclose a longitudinal section having a reduced internal cross-sectional area constituting the second longitudinal section, and wherein the second section extends across end regions of two monoliths that face each other.

54. (new) The catalytic converter according to claim 50, wherein the positioning region comprises three successively following longitudinal sections that extend with decreasing internal cross-sectional area from the first end of the tube.

55. (new) The catalytic converter according to claim 54, wherein two monoliths are positioned in the three longitudinal sections, such that the center longitudinal section extends across end regions of the monoliths that face each other.

56. (new) The catalytic converter according to claim 50, wherein the second longitudinal section having a reduced cross-sectional area extends only over a partial peripheral area of the tube section.

57. (new) The catalytic converter according to claim 50, wherein the second longitudinal section having a reduced cross-sectional area has a reduction in a cross-sectional area that is more pronounced in one partial peripheral area than in another partial peripheral area.

58. (new) The catalytic converter according to claim 50, wherein the positioning mat comprises embedded exfoliated mica particles.

59. (new) The catalytic converter according to claim 50, wherein the second longitudinal second having reduced longitudinal cross-sectional area encircles a region of the monolith that is facing counter to a flow direction.